

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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USMISSION NATO
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USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
COMSIXTHFLT
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8642

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
SUBJECT: REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: A) ATHENS 8573 B) THESSALONIKI 254 (NOTAL)

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1. THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE AEGEAN, THE RENEWED
ACTIVITY OF THE TURKISH SEISMIC SHIP SISMİK I AND A
STATEMENT BY OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS WERE THE MAIN
STORIES IN THE GREEK PRESS TODAY (AUGUST 19). ON THE
SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE, MUCH ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO REPORTS
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FROM NEW YORK THAT INTENSE BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONSULTATIONS

WERE BEING PURSUED ON A NEW DRAFT RESOLUTION BY THE UK, FRANCE, AND ITALY, TO REPLACE THEIR ORIGINAL DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY. SOME NEWSPAPERS MENTIONED THAT THE U.S. ROLE AND THE POSITION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE NOT BEEN HELPFUL TO THE GREEK SIDE, AND THE USSR AS WELL CAME IN FOR A MEASURE OF CRITICISM. (ACCORDING TO THE NEWS ON GREEK RADIO, THE SOVIET STAND WAS HOLDING UP FURTHER MOVEMENT IN THE UNSC BUT OTHER REPORTS ATTRIBUTED "THE LOSS OF VALUABLE TIME" TO THE SECRETARY'S BEHIND THE SCENES ACTIVITIES). THE RADIO NEWS SUGGESTED THAT SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN DEVELOPING A FORMULA THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES AND COMMENTED THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL MAY BE CALLED INTO SESSION THIS AFTERNOON TO RESUME THE DEBATE AND POSSIBLY ADOPT A RESOLUTION.

2. THE THIRD OUTING IN THE AEGEAN OF THE SISMİK I WAS ALSO GIVEN AMPLE PLAY, ESPECIALLY IN THE AFTERNOON PAPERS, INCLUDING MAPS SHOWING THE AREA OF ITS OPERATIONS SOUGH OF CHIOS. SEVERAL HEADLINES DENOUNCED THIS VOYAGE AS A FURTHER TURKISH PROVOCATION. HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF NEWS REPORTS STATED THAT INASMUCH AS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED A PUBLIC NOTICE OF WHERE THE VESSEL WOULD OPERATE, WHICH WOULD BE MOSTLY IN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, THE SHIP'S OPERATIONS WOULD NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES. SOME PAPERS ALSO REPORTED, HOWEVER, THA TOWARD THE END OF THIS THIRD PHASE THE SISMİK WOULD AGAIN GO OVER THE GREEK-CLAIMED CONTINENTAL SHELF. MENTION WAS ALSO MADE THAT THIS TIME THE SISMİK HAD AN ESCORT OF TWO DESTROYERS AND A MINESWEEPER. CONSIDERABLE PLAY WAS ALSO GIVEN TO REPORTS FROM TURKISH SOURCES THAT THE TURKISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DECIDED THAT THE SISMİK WOULD CONTINUE ITS RESEARCH PROGRAM AT ALL COSTS AND ANY ATTACK AGAINST IT WOULD LEAD TO AN IMMEDIATE TURKISH RESPONSE.

3. THE MEDIA LIKEWISE FEATURED A STATEMENT MADE YESTERDAY BY GEORGE MAVROS, PRESIDENT OF THE LEADING OPPOSITION UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, IN WHICH HE SUPPORTED THE GOG'S HAVING GONE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL BUT COMPLAINED THAT THIS ACTION ALONE WAS INSUFFICIENT. HE REITERATED POINTS HE HAD MADE EARLIER, NAMELY THAT GREECE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON THE FUTURE

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OF AMERICAN BASES IN GREECE, RE-EXAMINE GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO AND EMBARK ON A WORLDWIDE DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR "GREECE'S RIGHTS." HE ALSO LAMBASTED WHAT HE ALLEGED IS HAPPENING BACKSTAGE AT THE UN WHERE HE CHARGED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD SEIZED THE INITIATIVE AND WAS TRYING TO "WIN A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY" AT THE EXPENSE OF GREECE. KISSINGER'S POLICY "IS TO SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY. HE DOES NOT CARE

FOR THE GREEKS, MAVROS SAID. A GOG SPOKESMAN IN COMMENTING ON MAVROS' STATEMENT SAID THAT THE POLICY ADVOCATED BY MAVROS WOULD WEAKEN GREECE'S POSITION AND STRENGTHEN THAT OF TURKEY BY DESTROYING GREECE'S FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY HER EUROPEAN POLICY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAW MAVROS ON ANOTHER MATTER THIS MORNING AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT TO HIM THAT HIS CRITICISM OF THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN UNJUSTIFIED. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR EXPLAINED THAT IN FACT THE U.S., AND IN PARTICULAR THE SECRETARY, WAS PLAYING A CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL ROLE IN NEW YORK IN TRYING TO FIND A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. CRITICISM SUCH AS THAT MADE BY MAVROS WAS NOT HELPFUL IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. IN DEFENSE OF HIMSELF, MAVROS SAID HE WAS TRYING TO SUPPORT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IN THE MODERATE COURSE HE WAS PURSUING AND IN THE FACE OF THE IRRESPONSIBLE CHAUVINISM OF PAPANDREOU. TO DO SO EFFECTIVELY, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD TO MAINTAIN HIS CREDIBILITY AND FOR THIS REASON HE COULD NOT AVOID CRITICISM OF THE U.S. WHICH, HE CONTENDED, SHOULD BE DOING MORE TO PRESSURE THE TURKS. MAVROS WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD CHOSEN HIS WORDS CAREFULLY BOTH WITH RESPECT TO THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND NATO. HE HAD CALLED FOR "SUSPENSION" OF THE BASE TALKS, AND NOT TO BREAK THEM OFF, AND FOR REEXAMINATION OF THE TIES WITH NATO, NOT WITHDRAWAL. MOREOVER, HE HAD SPOKEN UP IN THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S. ROLE IN THE WORLD ON THE FLOOR OF THE GREEK PARLIAMENT (HIS SPEECH OF APRIL 17, 1876). MAVROS SAID HE MADE THE POINT IN THAT SPEECH THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE WORLDXN "THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE U.S. IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER FOR BALANCE OF POWER AND TO SAFEGUARD PEACE IN THE WORLD." END CONFIDENTIAL.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. OTHER RELATED STORIES IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESS TODAY INCLUDED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE HAS SET AUGUST 25 FOR HEARING THE GREEK SIDE ON THE GOG'S RECOURSE TO THE COURT ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE AND THAT FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (DECEMBER 1974-JUNE 1975) AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE MICHAEL STASSINOPOULOS WILL BE THE GREEK "NATIONAL JUDGE" AT THE PROCEEDINGS. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GOT HAD PROTESTED THE BURNING OF A MOSLEM SCHOOL IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS (REFTEL B) TO THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA WHO ASSURED THE GOT ALL NECESSARY STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO APPREHEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE GOG HAD INCREASED THE GUARDS AT TURKISH CONSULATES IN NORTHERN GREECE AND PUT GUARDS ON MOSLEM SCHOOLS IN THAT REGION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. KUBISCH

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